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AFGHANISTAN

RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 31, 2013

January 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

Contract: AID-306-C-12-00014



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DISCLAIMER

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACAS	Afghanistan Court Administration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
AWJA	Afghan Women Judges Assembly
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
CMS	Case Management System
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RLS-Formal	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
SC	Supreme Court
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization – Formal Component (RLS-Formal) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program designed to increase public confidence in the rule of law system and support the improved performance and accountability of governance in Afghanistan.

RLS-Formal accomplished the following results and activities in January:

Judicial Education RLS-Formal concluded a continuing legal education training program for sitting judges from anti-corruption tribunals from across Afghanistan in early January. The project built on this success by conducting an assessment of the needs of all 8 specialized anti-corruption courts in the second half of January. The project continued its work with the judicial *Stage* assisting the Supreme Court to prepare for the incoming class of candidate judges which is expected to begin their studies in March.

Court Management RLS-Formal conducted training programs to familiarize court administrators from the specialized Crimes Against Internal and External Security divisions at appellate courts in Balkh, Kabul and Herat provinces with the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS). The project also implemented computer literacy workshops in Herat and Kandahar provinces to improve the knowledge of court administrators of essential computer applications for registration and tracking case documents.

Legal Education RLS-Formal supported the National Round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Kabul where forty Law and *Sharia* students from eight universities demonstrated their research and advocacy skills on issues of international law. The project supported English language courses for over 250 Law and *Sharia* students from Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar universities as well as inaugurated a computer lab for legal research at Herat University. The project continued its support for legal clinics, including the clinic at Balkh University where students examined actual case documents which were prepared at a legal aid office in Mazar . Planning continued for the upcoming National Symposium on Legal Education and Practical Training anticipated for April 2013.

Public Legal Outreach RLS-Formal conducted a training program on the National Legal Awareness Strategy for the public outreach staff of the Ministry of Justice in Nangarhar province. The training included a speech by a community elder in support of women's rights, a street law session at a high school conducted by students from Nangarhar University and a mobile theater performance promoting gender justice.

FORMAL RULE OF LAW SYSTEM IMPROVED

RLS-Formal enhances the rule of law system in Afghanistan by strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and court administrators. The project organizes these activities under Component 1 and Component 2 respectively. The objective of the components is to fair, accountable and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and increase public confidence in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA).

COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY

TASK 1: CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL STAGE PROGRAM

- RLS-Formal continued its technical and financial assistance to the judicial *Stage*. In January, the project worked with the Supreme Court's Research and Studies Department to assist with the entrance examinations, curriculum development, equipment procurements, and donor coordination for the next class of judicial *Stage* candidates. In mid-January, RLS-Formal entered discussions with the Research and Department on a train-the-trainer program to modernize the teaching methodologies employed by *Stage* instructors. The project works to improve the classrooms effectiveness of *Stage* instructors in order to ensure new judges develop the practical skills to apply in their day-to-day work as well as their theoretical knowledge.
- In January, RLS-Formal continued to work with the Supreme Court on developing a special short-term legal education program for the new judges expected to fill vacancies in insecure district courts. RLS-Formal advisor met with the Supreme Court's Research and Studies Department to finalize the list of the anticipated 80 new judges and select the instructors for the training. In late January, the Supreme Court submitted the list of judges to the Office of the President. RLS-Formal supports the short-term training of new judges who do not attend the regular, 2-year judicial *Stage*, in order to ensure that Afghanistan's specially-appointed judges in insecure districts receive the appropriate training before entering judicial service.

TASK 2: IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ANTI-CORRUPTION COURTS

- On January 3rd, Judge Akbari of the Kabul Anti-Corruption Court graduated 34 sitting judges from Anti-Corruption Tribunals across Afghanistan in a training program on substantive laws and courtroom procedures. Held in Kabul, the ceremony concluded the eight-day skills development initiative for the participating thirty-three male judges and one female judge from Badakhshan, Bamyán, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Khost, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Panjshir provinces. RLS-Formal works to improve the capacity of anti-corruption courts through practical training activities for judges and their staff, which aim to increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of law.



Judge Akbari of the Kabul Anti-Corruption Court (right) graduates a sitting judge from an anti-corruption training program in Kabul.

- RLS-Formal completed an assessment of the needs and capacities of all 8 anti-corruption tribunals across Afghanistan. In conducting the weeks-long assessment, advisors traveled to specialized anti-corruption courts in Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Balkh, Bamyán, Paktia and Nangarhar provinces to evaluate court resources and caseloads, and to determine initiatives to improve court capacity through material, technical and training support. The assessment results will help RLS-Formal target assistance to meet the specific needs of each anti-corruption tribunal. RLS-Formal works to strengthen the capacity of anti-corruption courts in order to empower them to promote transparent and accountable governance and increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of law.

First Person: Judge Shiragh Monib

Fighting Corruption with Knowledge

Increasing public confidence in the rule of law in Afghanistan requires a judiciary willing and able to fight corruption. Anti-corruption courts play a key role in improving governance by hearing cases involving corruption. However, many judges at such courts lack the legal knowledge to adjudicate their increasing number of cases.

Judge Shiragh Monib leads the anti-corruption tribunal in Herat province which has disposed of over a hundred cases since March 2012. A number of these cases involve banking and money-laundering law. Judge Monib and other judges at the court are unfamiliar with these new laws and lack sufficient training on these laws understand how they are meant to be interpreted and applied in specific circumstances.

USAID improves the capacity of anti-corruption courts by providing practical training for judges and court staff on substantive laws and courtroom procedures. In January, Judge Monib attended a USAID-sponsored training and studied the legal framework for tackling corruption, including banking and money-laundering laws, and judicial ethics.



A trainer leads a presentation on judicial ethics for judges responsible for hearing cases involving corruption.

Judge Monib then applied the knowledge he gained from the training when he reviewed a conviction made by a primary court. The primary court incorrectly categorized the crime as “a misuse of duty.” The judge was able to amend this to “bribery.”

The judge described the impact of the USAID training: “For the first time, I was given an opportunity to attend a specialized training on anti-corruption where I gained in-depth knowledge of the different types of the corruption crimes.”

TASK 3: CONTINUE PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING & CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR SITTING JUDGES

- On January 19th, RLS-Formal launched an initiative to standardize continuing legal education materials for training sitting judges. Project advisors are evaluating current training materials focusing on emerging legal issues and recently enacted laws, including those on financial disclosure requirements and conflict of interests, and revising obsolete materials to ensure an up-to-date and uniform curriculum for continuing legal education courses. RLS-Formal works closely with the Judicial Education Department of the Supreme Court to develop and distribute these materials and conduct trainings at the provincial level to build capacity within the judicial ranks. RLS-Formal will support its next continuing legal education program in Kabul for judges from insecure provinces, including Ghazni, Logar, Khost, Paktia and Paktika beginning on February 3, 2013.

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

TASK 1: TRAIN COURT STAFF TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL COURT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- During the week of January 5th, RLS-Formal led two computer literacy workshops for court administrators and judges in Herat province. The on-going, three-month workshops enable 11 male and three female court administrators and four female judges from the Herat appellate court to learn Microsoft Windows through hands-on, problem-solving activities. In January, RLS-Formal also led a computer literacy workshop for three male court administrators in Kandahar province. Knowledge of essential computer applications enables court staff to efficiently prepare case documents and maintain records and statistics, contributing to a professional court administrative service. This capacity-building initiative aims to prepare court personnel to enter data in the statistics database under development at the Supreme Court with RLS-Formal assistance.
- On January 15th, RLS-Formal conducted a training program to familiarize court administrators from the Appellate Court in Kabul province with the procedures and materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS). Four male and one female court administrator from the Crimes Against Internal and External Security Division learned how to register and track cases using the system. On January 28th, similar ACAS trainings were conducted simultaneously for 14 male court staff in Balkh and Herat Courts of Appeals. RLS-Formal works closely with the Supreme Court to train judges and court staff to manage cases using ACAS in order to increase the efficacy and transparency of case handling as well as strengthen the public perception of the judiciary as a trusted institution for the resolution of legal disputes.



Court administrators from the Crimes Against Internal and External Security Division of the Appellate Court in Balkh Province study ACAS materials.

TASK 2: DEVELOP SUPREME COURT CAPACITY TO MANAGE BUDGET PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- In January, RLS-Formal continued to provide support for the human resources database and asset management database which the project installed at the Supreme Court in December. Project advisors assisted the SC to develop manuals to help staff to begin to use the new databases and advised the Supreme Court's Information Technical (IT) Department on internet and network configurations to optimize access to the new database for staff. The human resources database helps the Court to manage its personnel by tracking staff performance and training data, and integrating the data with the government's civil service database. The asset management database enhances the Supreme Court's ability to – inventory and monitor its property and oversee the construction and renovation of court buildings. RLS-Formal aims to develop the capacity of the Court to formulate its budget and to manage its personnel and material assets by providing technical and material support.
- In January, RLS-Formal advisors worked closely with the Budget Directorate of the Supreme Court on developing their annual budget. The advisors introduced counterpart staff to advanced financial planning and cost projection conceptions, such as medium term fiscal and budget frameworks.. One anticipated benefit of this activity is improving the court's ability to receive and management direct US Government assistance. RLS-Formal assists the Supreme Court to improve its capacity to efficiently and effectively fund the court system through better budget development and management.

COMPONENT 3

AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION EXPANDED

RLS-Formal expands the availability of legal education in Afghanistan by building the capacity of Law and *Sharia* faculties at universities under Component 3. The objective of Component 3 is to form a cadre of well-trained and motivated legal professionals who can provide meaningful access to justice to more citizens.

COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA

TASK 1: CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF CORE CURRICULUM FOR LAW AND SHARIA FACULTIES

- On January 7th, RLS-Formal and the Ministry of Higher Education initiated the preparation of three core curriculum textbooks for legal studies. Professors from the Law faculty of Kabul University will prepare textbooks on criminalistics, forensic medicine and civil procedure. The project will assist with the design and presentation of the textbooks before publishing and distributing them to universities. RLS-Formal continues to support the core curriculum for Law and *Sharia* faculties in Afghanistan by publishing and translating textbooks, preparing curriculum syllabi and organizing national conferences to build support in the legal education community for modernizing teaching methodologies.
- In late January, RLS-Formal distributed textbooks on inheritance law, Islamic jurisprudence and street law to law libraries at AlBiruni, Kabul and Nangarhar universities. The project supports the development of professionally managed and well-supplied libraries as a means for students and judicial personnel to more easily identify and access legal resources.



The head librarian at the Sharia faculty of Kabul University receives new textbooks on Islamic jurisprudence.

TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- Between January 19th and January 21st, students from eight universities participated in the Preliminary National Round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Kabul. Forty Law and *Sharia* students (8 teams of 5 members each) from Nanagarhar, Herat, Balkh, Al Biruni, Kandahar, Panshir, Takhar, and Khost competed against each other arguing a hypothetical case on issues of international law. Four of these universities (Kandahar, Panshir, Takhar, and Khost) competed in Jessup for the first time in the history of the program. RLS-Formal supports the Jessup Competition, other moot court contests, and a range of additional practical skills experiences to develop a cadre of well-trained and motivated future judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys who will provide meaningful access to justice to all citizens.



The Jessup Competition in Quotes

Attending the event, **Dr. Abdullah Atayee, Administrative General of the Judiciary** said, “Education is the biggest asset for a country. We are proud of these young and talented students who will represent Afghanistan at the international finals in Washington.”

Ambassador Stephen McFarland, the Coordinating Director for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement at the U.S. Embassy, stated that “observing law students passionately arguing their cases on points of international law demonstrates how far Afghanistan has come in reforming its legal education.” Addressing the students, he added that “the skills developed during this competition will help you become stronger lawyers, judges, and prosecutors, and prepare you as future leaders in the legal community of Afghanistan.”

- On January 23rd, students from Al Biruni and Herat Universities competed in the Final National Round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held at the Supreme Court. These two teams won over competitors from six other universities in the Preliminary Rounds held earlier in the week. The team from Herat University won the national round and will go on to represent Afghanistan in International Competition in Washington D.C. beginning March 31st. United States Ambassador, Stephen McFarland and Dr. Abdullah Atayee, Administer General of the Supreme Court gave remarks congratulating the participants. USAID Mission Director, Ken Yamashita, USAID Deputy Mission Director, Jim Stein, and USAID Democracy & Governance Section Lead, Tim Alexander, also attended the event. Afghanistan's Jessup team in 2012, supported by RLS-Formal, advanced further in the international competition than any of its predecessor teams.



Students from the Herat and Al Biruni universities participating in the Final National Round of the Jessup Competition pose with the judges.

What is the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition?

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from over 500 law schools in more than 80 countries. The competition, now in its 54th year, poses a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations.

Each eligible law school is allowed to field one team of four or five students. In the months leading up to the competition, each team prepares oral argument and written briefs in English arguing on behalf of the two sides in the dispute, the applicant and respondent. First, each eligible law school holds a competition to select a team to represent the university at the national round. Then, teams from each eligible university compete in the national round with the winning team going on to the international round scheduled for March 31- April 6, 2013 in Washington, DC.

The students this year demonstrated their legal advocacy skills through the Jessup Competition as they competed on three key issues: 1) whether a state can continue to exist if it has no defined territory, 2) whether the treatment and proposed transfer of refugees comply with international refugee law, 3) whether the seizure of state funds deposited with a bank in the territory is in compliance with international law. The judge's panel deciding this year's winners was made up of prominent international

legal experts.

In past years, Afghan students have won the "Spirit of Jessup" award and have also been ranked among the "Top 100 Oralists" in the competition. The National Jessup Administrator, Ghulam Reza Mohammad, won the Steven M. Schneebaum Outstanding National Administrator Award in 2011, which recognized his efforts in successfully organizing Afghanistan's national competition.

- In January, ten male and ten female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties at Balkh University participated in a legal clinic on civil and criminal substantive and procedural law. The students examined and discussed actual petitions for cases prepared by the local legal aid office, complementing their academic coursework which focuses primarily on legal theory. RLS-Formal provides technical and financial support to legal clinic programs which help students to observe the formal justice system, develop their research and advocacy skills to better prepare them to enter the legal profession after graduation



Law clinic students Balkh University' examine actual legal aid petitions with their clinic advisor.

TASK 3: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

- On January 7th, RLS-Formal and the Vice-Chancellor of Herat University inaugurated a language lab at the Law Faculty of the university. The lab contains new computers with language-learning software to promote the advanced study of foreign languages, including English and Arabic, which enables students and professors to broaden their access to legal resources and to gain the communications skills needed to study abroad. Foreign language skills also expand the opportunities of students to participate in moot courts, debates and other international competitions, many of which require English proficiency. With the opening of this lab, RLS-Formal will support an ongoing English language course for 50 male and 25 female students from the Law Faculty at Herat University, all of whom began using the lab for their coursework this week.
- Throughout January, RLS-Formal supported English language courses for Law and *Sharia* students from Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar universities. Over 250 students, including 55 female

students, learned advanced English reading, writing and communication skills using the newly inaugurated language labs at the universities. RLS-Formal assists universities to implement advance legal English trainings in order to expand the opportunities of students to participate in moot courts, debates and other international competitions which require English language proficiency.

- On January 26th, RLS-Formal distributed English language learning software to 120 students from Nangarhar University as part of an ongoing legal English program. The software assists students with developing their English language skills through grammar and vocabulary exercises. RLS-Formal supports legal English programs to help Law and *Sharia* students to access mainstream legal resource materials and expand their opportunities to participate in moot court competitions, study tours and scholarships abroad which require advanced English language proficiency.



Students from Nangarhar University receive English language learning software.

- On January 1st, RLS-Formal commenced a training program on legal research methodologies for 55 female students from the *Sharia* faculty and 45 female students from the Law Faculty of Herat University. The three-day program familiarized the students with the practical skills of researching legal topics using online sources and strategies in order to facilitate the selection of thesis and dissertation topics, as well as aid in overall general legal research. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives for Law and *Sharia* faculty students across the country in order to balance the academic focus of their education and to prepare them to enter the legal profession after graduation.



Female students from Herat University participate in an exercise strengthening their legal research techniques.

- On January 12th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Vice Dean of the Law Faculty of Kabul University to discuss the upcoming Symposium on Legal Education and Practical Training. The Vice Dean agreed to support the Symposium by obtaining, and coordinating support, of representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education. RLS-Formal and the Vice Dean also discussed the project's support for new interns joining the Law Faculty's legal clinic and an upcoming legal research program for students. RLS-Formal supports legal clinics and research programs to form a cadre of skilled legal professionals who can help provide better access to justice for citizens. The project also organizes national conferences like the Symposium to build consensus among educators on curriculum reform and modern teaching methodologies.

TASK 4: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

- On January 13th, RLS-Formal conducted an internal training program introducing its gender justice advisors to adult learning theories and methodologies. The Senior Legal Education Advisor presented the differences in learning styles between youths and adults and experiential learning techniques to the gender justice team. RLS-Formal conducts internal training programs for its staff in order to strengthen coordination and synergy between the initiatives of the project components.

COMPONENT 4

CITIZEN AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROCESSES OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM INCREASED

RLS-Formal raises citizen awareness of legal rights and process with public legal outreach and awareness conducted through strategic communications under Component 4. The objective of Component 4 is to transfer knowledge and skills to government counterparts to leave a core of professionals with the expertise and experience to sustainably continue increasing public trust in the justice system.

COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

TASK 1: PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH CAPACITY

- Between January 26th and January 30th, RLS-Formal implemented a training program on the National Legal Awareness Strategy for public outreach staff from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). Over twenty MOJ staff participated in the training in Nangarhar province and studied methods to design and implement public awareness campaigns and effective channels of mass communication to reach targeted audiences. The participants serve in the provincial offices of the legal awareness department of the MOJ in Ghazni, Khost, Kapisa, Laghman, Paktia, Parwan, and Wardak provinces. The training concluded with a ceremony featuring a speech by a community elder in support of women's rights and a mobile theater performance promoting gender justice. During the ceremony, the director of the *Sharia* faculty spoke on the importance promoting women's involvement in the justice sector, by advocating that "in short, I'd say the first politician in Islam was a woman." RLS-Formal conducts national and regional seminars to educate and motivate local government stakeholders such as the MOJ and the Supreme Court to engage in intensive public outreach to foster awareness and promote confidence in Afghanistan's justice system.

Quotes from the National Legal Awareness Strategy Training

Mahmood Khalil, the **Chief Justice of Nangarhar Province**, praised the training program, saying "The ten minute mobile theater promoting legal awareness conveyed more information than a two hour speech... I believe the audience will share the messages with their families, and it will benefit our society."

Mahirullah Shenwari, a **public awareness officer with the Ministry of Justice** in Nangarhar Province, said "this was the first time that I participated in a training program. The topics were new to me, and I caught on quickly. The training will directly benefit my work, especially when I conduct press conferences."



Actors lead a mobile theater performance promoting gender justice at a training program on the National Legal Awareness Strategy in Nangarhar province.

TASK 2: DEVELOP CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE PRINT CAMPAIGNS

- In January, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Director of the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA) Anisa Rasuoli to develop a brochure and began outlining a strategic communications plan. The participants discussed training initiatives to build the capacity of the AWJA to conduct public outreach campaigns that positively portray the justice system and gender equality. The Director offered her support to finalize a documentary highlighting the role of women judges in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal works closely with the Supreme Court to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA to advocate on behalf of women judges and serve as an inspiration for young women considering legal careers.

GENDER JUSTICE

RLS-Formal advances the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to participate in the justice sector and raising awareness of women's rights and gender equality. The project aims to promote women's access to formal justice mechanisms, improve access to legal education for women and foster a justice sector willing and capable of enforcing existing law and Constitutional rights of women.

RLS-FORMAL INTEGRATION & AWARENESS

- On January 6th, RLS-Formal and USAID representatives met with female judges in Balkh province to discuss continuing legal education programs (CLE) for sitting judges. Three female judges from the juvenile, traffic and public divisions of the Balkh Appellate Court and a female judge from the Balkh Primary Court shared their feedback on a recent gender justice initiative conducted by the project and suggested topics for future trainings. USAID field representative in Mazar, Kendra Bruce, helped lead and facilitate the meeting. RLS-Formal mainstreams gender justice in its CLE programs to foster a justice sector willing and capable of applying Afghanistan's constitutional guarantee of gender equality.
- On January 19th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the President of the Afghan Women Judges Assembly (AWJA), Judge Anisa Rasooli, to discuss her request that USAID, through RLS-Formal, support the AWJA's interest in attending the Asia Regional Conference of Judges organized by the International Association of Women Judges Conference. USAID will consider this request. The regional conference is intended to provide a forum for female judges to address issues of common concern, including human rights and sex trafficking. The conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand in May 2013. RLS-Formal works closely with the Supreme Court to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA, to advocate on behalf of women judges, and to serve as an inspiration for young women considering careers in the judiciary.
- In mid-January, RLS-Formal advisor conducted a series of meetings with the Ministry of Haj and Islamic Affairs to develop a training program on gender justice and gender equality for mullahs across Afghanistan. The training program intends to improve the mullahs' knowledge of women's legal rights, including women's rights to divorce, education and inheritance, enabling them to incorporate these topics when communicating with the public. RLS-Formal works to raise awareness of gender equality through culturally appropriate mediums that reflect local realities in order to ensure such messages reach as wide an audience as possible.



RLS-Formal Gender Advisor meets with a member of the Department of Mosques of the Ministry of Haj and Islamic Affairs.

- On January 28th, RLS-Formal conducted a listening group of women beneficiaries in Kabul to evaluate the efficacy of television public service announcements on gender equality and gender justice. Seven women from targeted socio-economic groups discussed their views of the television spots, which intend to raise awareness of the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the property and inheritance rights of women. With RLS-Formal assistance, the MOJ aired the public service announcements in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to commemorate International Human Rights Days in early December.



Women beneficiaries participate in a listening group on television public service announcements on gender equality and gender justice.

Women Beneficiaries Discuss Public Service Announcements on Gender Equality

On January 28th, RLS-Formal conducted a listening group with seven women beneficiaries to evaluate the efficacy of television public service announcements on gender equality and gender justice. RLS-Formal analyzed their discussion using the following criteria.

[illegible]

For example, after showing the beneficiaries the public services announcements, the facilitator asked “Did this increase your level of awareness of your legal rights and the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women?”

Rule of Law Stabilization –Formal Program

people aware of the laws of their country... [then] the people will accept and respect the laws.” Other respondents followed this framework focusing their comments on the benefits to illiterate audiences. The conversation closed with a beneficiary reminding the group that promoting gender justice was “half broadcasting these programs and half implementing the laws.”

Internal agreement. RLS-Formal measures shifts in opinions to identify consensus.

For example, the listening group began with participants agreeing that GIRoA has made progress promoting women’s rights. Participants then shifted to identifying shortcomings, saying “laws are not implemented properly” and gender equality in the workplace remains an issue “since the majority of men who work in an organization abuse their positions to harass women.” Gradually, a consensus emerged that the lack of awareness of women’s rights is a minor issue compared with the government’s lack of resolve in enforcing these rights.

Precision of responses. The project determined which responses were based on personal experience and gave them greater weight than those based on impersonal impressions. Examples include:

- “My friend was involved in a car accident, and her car was seized by government. Since she is very beautiful, every time she went to get her car, they would make improper proposals to her. Upon her refusal of the proposals, they would postpone the release of her car to another day.”
- “I am aware of my rights, but my father is not. Today my father should have been called to participate this gathering...”
- “The violators are protected, but the person against whom violence is committed is not protected. My niece was 20 years old when she was killed by her husband’s family, and it was even shown in the news. Since her husband had given a bribe, he was released. My sister tried hard to get justice with no success.”

The big picture. RLS-Formal summarized the major findings of the listening group.

- The public service announcements successfully raised women’s awareness of their rights.
- Future initiatives should focus on raising awareness of gender equality amongst men, and increasing the government’s willingness to implement laws to protect women’s rights.
- The project should utilize methods of mass communication that reflect local realities, such as religious services. In the words of a beneficiary, “Afghanistan is an Islamic country, people are influence by imams. They can be helpful in increasing awareness...”

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Performance Indicator Data							
Indicator	2nd Quarter FY 2013					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly Achievement	Quarterly Target	Achievement To Date	Cumulative Target
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.				
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Result
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	-	4.50%	19.50%
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	-	-	-	-	68%	71%
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training	-	-	-	-	82%	-	82%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	-	-	-	-	5	-	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	-	-	-	-	23%	18%	28%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance	77	-	-	77	82	2129	3227
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	13	-	-	13	5	13	551
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Result
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or	100	-	-	100	225	1865	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	-	-	-	-	2	21	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	1840 Print	-	-	1840 Print	100,000 Print, 1 TV & Radio	4,001,290 Print, 4 TV	5,000,000 Print, 16 Radio & TV
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Results

Indicator 1: Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively

RLS-Formal utilizes a court user satisfaction survey, or Q10 survey, to gauge the perceptions of Afghan citizens who interact with courts. The views of court users suggest whether judicial reforms result in the creation of efficient and transparent dispute resolution in the eyes of Afghan citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 2: Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law

RLS-Formal works with its implementing partners to collect data on the number of people reached by its public legal outreach campaigns. Exposure to such a campaign increases the likelihood that a citizen will increase his or her awareness of their legal rights and how to access the justice system. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 2 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1b.

Indicator 3: Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted

RLS-Formal employs The Asia Foundation's Survey of the Afghan People, Question 79b to measure the public confidence in courts in Afghanistan. The percentage of the population who agree state courts are fair and trusted speaks to the overall public confidence in the rule of law system. The Asia Foundation publishes the survey results annually in November.

Indicator 4: Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training

RLS-Formal tracks the judges who graduation from the judicial *Stage*, the induction training to prepare a judge to serve in the judiciary. The *Stage* builds the capacity of judges by improving their legal knowledge and professional skills in areas, such as the constitution, civil and criminal code, and the *Qur'an* and *Hadiths*. RLS-Formal reports this indicator annually when the *Stage* graduates or when the number judges changings significantly. Indicator 4 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.11.b.

Indicator 5: Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques

RLS-Formal evaluates the teaching techniques of instructors at the judicial *Stage*, including their use of visual aids, learning exercises, student-led debates and classroom discussions. Modern teaching techniques increase the likelihood judges will build the practical legal knowledge and professional skills necessary to serve in the judiciary. RLS-Formal reports the results of its evaluations quarterly.

Indicator 6: Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights

RLS-Formal tracks which judges receive training on gender equality and gender justice. The training programs aim to improve judges' knowledge of women's rights and enable them to secure these rights through court proceedings. RLS-Formal reports these results quarterly.

Indicator 7: Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance

RLS-formal tabulates the number of justice sector personnel that receive training through program activities through attendance sheets. The project's training programs aim to assist judges and judicial staff to effectively carry out their duties and instill a sense of the necessity for judicial independence, transparency and accountability. RLS-Formal reports its training data quarterly. Indicator 7 is the US Foreign Assistance Framework Indicator 2.1.2-7. Indicator 7 represents the project's reported number of personnel trained to USAID. Training numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 8: Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms

RLS-Formal tracks the courts which benefit from its initiatives to improve court administration and management. Professional management systems enhance the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage its budget, personnel and assets. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly.

Indicator 9: Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector

RLS-Formal surveys students to measure their perception of the quality of legal education at their university's Law and *Sharia* faculties. Practical legal coursework intends to training and motivating students become legal professionals who can offer meaningful access to justice to more citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 10: Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships

RLS-Formal gages the number of students involved in practical legal activities, including legal clinics, moot courts, mock trials or other competitions designed to hone students' advocacy and research skills, through attendance sheets. Practical legal exercises complement the theoretical legal education commonly found in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 10 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2b. Indicator 10 represents the project's reported number of student participants to USAID. Student numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 11: Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance

RLS-Formal tracks the number of new legal courses developed as a result of its assistance to the Ministry of Higher Education. Such courses complement the newly unified core curriculum for Law and *Sharia* faculties by providing the coursework, textbooks, and reference materials for professors to teach their classes. RLS-Formal reports the new legal courses developed quarterly. Indicator 11 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2e.

Indicator 12: Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries

RLS-Formal conducts listening groups of beneficiaries to gage the effectiveness of its public legal outreach activities. Public legal outreach activities aim to increase citizens' awareness of legal rights and process through strategic communications. RLS-Formal analyzes and reports the result of the listening groups quarterly.

Indicator 13: Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns

RLS-Formal tracks the public outreach materials produced and disseminated through the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court as the result of its assistance. Effective legal outreach campaigns require leveraging popular media channels and mechanisms to ensure rule of Law message reach the public. RLS-Formal reports these numbers quarterly.

Indicator 14: Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming

RLS-Formal solicits feedback from participants through questionnaires to measures the efficacy of its training programs. Training programs aim to stimulate growth in women's confidence and ability to advocate for women's legal status and access justice. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly. Indicator 14 is the USAID Gender strategy Indicator #3.

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